



# Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Commissioner's NEWSLETTER

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## KDFWR's Sgt. Herb Booth captures Nicholas County fugitive

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Carlisle Mercury*

**By Charles Mattox**  
**Carlisle Mercury News Editor**

A fugitive from the law for several months was taken into custody, by veteran Kentucky Wildlife and Conservation Sgt. Herbert Booth, Saturday, Oct. 13.

"I'm relieved," Jeffrey Dunn said as he was escorted from the Carlisle Police Station by Nicholas County Jailer Jeff Sidles, on his way to the Montgomery County Jail Saturday afternoon. "I'm glad it's over and I'm ready to get this process started."

Dunn, 25, formerly of Dunn Road, Carlisle, has been indicted by two separate Nicholas County grand juries for four

counts of trafficking in a controlled substance, first degree, and being a persistent felony offender.

"I was on a routine patrol for our Youth Hunt this weekend near the Cameron Farm approximately 1.5 miles from the Dunn house," Booth said. "At approximately 10:45 a.m., I heard some dogs barking and saw 4-wheeler tracks on the ground so I followed the tracks and kept watching ahead. I thought I saw Jeffrey Dunn on the 4-wheeler."

Sgt. Booth, who has quietly, yet efficiently patrolled the woods and streams of the area for 33 years as a Wildlife and Conservation officer, was able to approach Dunn undetected until he was within arm's reach.

"I touched his shoulder and told him not to move. He offered no resistance," Booth said.

Booth brought Dunn to the Carlisle Police Station for processing.

Kentucky State Police Detective Brett Kirkland had previously testified to the grand juries against Dunn, and he was also present for part of the interrogation against Dunn following the arrest.

"I'm very glad Mr. Dunn was apprehended without incident," Kirkland said.

As Dunn was escorted from the police station by Sidles he spoke briefly.

"I was never armed and dangerous," he said with an easy smile. "I've never had any assault or firearms charges against me."

## Commission committees met this month

The Wildlife, Fisheries, and Administration, Education and Policy Committees of the Fish and Wildlife Commission met this month in Frankfort. They discussed a number of issues, including a competitive youth trap shooting league, that will be brought before the full Commission in December.



## Knox County Mill Branch stream restoration project is underway

By Sunni Carr

After a year and a half of planning, coaxing and anticipating, the Mill Branch stream restoration project is underway.

In the fall of 2005, staff from the USFWS approached the department about becoming involved in the first habitat restoration project for the federally threatened blackside dace (*Phoxinus cumberlandensis*).

This small fish inhabits a very small area in the upper Cumberland River drainage in southeastern Kentucky and only 6 localized occurrences have been noted in the drainage area occurring in Tennessee.

Staff from KDFWR, USFWS and the Natural Resources Conservation Service set out to recreate the healthy stream system upon which these fish depend.

After initial meetings, it was clear that Dr. Art Parola with the University of Louisville's Stream Institute was "the man for the job".

Dr. Parola has extensive experience in stream restoration projects throughout the state and understands the complexity and dynamics of working within the limits of each contributor's program and multiple landowners. After much planning and landowner negotiations, the project was developed and we are now three weeks into construction.

Currently, the equipment operators



have created the new floodplain and are creating the new channel beginning at the mouth of Stinking Creek. The old channel was deeply incised and had been pushed against the hillside in previous years.

Decades of logging activities and some coal mining have also contributed large amounts of sediment deposits and conductivity issues. The reconstruction of the channel will include the development of riffles and pools, increased sinuosity and large amounts of highly specialized habitat for the dace. Blackside dace are often shy and secretive, preferring to occupy under-

cut banks, root wads and brush.

In addition, relatively silt-free gravel beds are preferred and utilized for spawning when available. This restoration project will pay particular attention to in-stream structure details that will maximize dace use.

With the complexity of funding sources and program limitations, one of the largest challenges faced was how to direct funds to this project with each of the programs having a private landowner emphasis.

The Kentucky Division of Conservation and NRCS staff played an instrumental role in assisting with funds and sound advice on how to work through the local RC&D Council to allow them to hold contracts, accept and make payments. This was critical to the project's success.

We are currently working with the

MRT to have the upper reach of Mill Branch to be restored via FILO funds. This will complete over one mile of stream for the dace.

Finally, without the willingness and cooperation of the landowners, this project would never have left the ground and we certainly appreciate their dedication to the resources we all love.

If you would like to see the Mill Branch project, please contact Jacob Stewart at 606-330-2166.



## Kentucky makes commitment to increase fishing license sales

ALEXANDRIA, VA (November 8, 2007) – The Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) today announced that Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is the first state to sign on to a new direct mail marketing effort to increase fishing license sales.

The direct mail toolkit, developed by RBFF to help increase participation in the sport and generate awareness of the connection between fishing license sales and conservation efforts, will be used to imple-

ment a lapsed angler recruitment program in Kentucky.

"We are proud to announce Kentucky's commitment to engage lapsed anglers," said RBFF President and CEO Frank Peterson. "RBFF estimates that the nationwide program could generate \$5.6 million in revenue for those states who participate. We look forward to this partnership."

"Our Department relies solely on license and boater registration fees and federal grants as a revenue source," said KDFWR Commissioner Jon Gassett. "Our recent partnership with RBFF and their direct marketing efforts are an excellent opportunity to maintain or increase

our fishing license sales."

The product will include future modules to address retention and recruitment of new anglers, an online component complete with direct mail templates, instructions to implement a direct mail campaign and marketing assistance from RBFF. A workshop for states that want to use the toolkit will be held in January.

### About RBFF

*RBFF is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 to increase participation in recreational angling and boating. RBFF helps people discover, share and protect the legacy of boating and fishing through national outreach programs including the Take Me Fishing campaign and Anglers' Legacy.*

### Success at Ballard WMA



Public Lands Biologist Dave Frederick took this 125 class buck during the Ballard WMA quota hunt this month. He was the only member of his party that included fellow wildlife biologists John Brunjes, David Yancy and Brian Clark, who took a deer during the hunt this season.

## 2 new biologists join Fisheries' FILO program

The KDFWR in-lieu fee mitigation program (FILO) recently hired two new biologists, Andy Mowrey and Nick Ozburn. These new FILO biologists bring the staffing level up to five personnel. The addition of these two biologists brings KDFWR's FILO program closer to the staffing level of similar programs in the southeast.

Andy Mowrey brings with him a diverse background in natural sciences and biology. He is a 1998 graduate of Murray State University and Hocking College in addition to being a military veteran. He brings with him a wide range of experience from biological consulting firms, land stewardship, surveying,

and native fish restoration. He has worked across the United States in various jobs for USFWS, NOAA, and state wildlife agencies. Andy most recently worked with KDFWR's Center for Mollusk Conservation as a seasonal employee assisting in mussel surveys and propagation. Andy's experience and background is an excellent addition to the program.

Nick Ozburn recently graduated Auburn University with a M.S. in Fisheries. He obtained his undergraduate in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Illinois. Nick brings with him a strong background in stream ecology, stream fisheries, and in developing stream studies in the southeast. He has been actively involved in a wide range of projects from forest work to fish distributions and factors influencing fisheries. His

See "FILO," page 6.



## Update on the cormorant issue on the Kentucky Lake islands

When the Tennessee River was impounded in the mid 1940's to create Kentucky Lake, a large island (spanning almost eight miles) was created from an elevated terrace on the southern end of the Kentucky portion that paralleled the old river channel.

This island was unique to Kentucky Lake as it provided an area for feeding and nesting of waterfowl, wading birds, and shore birds. This island also provided shallow wetland areas for spawning and nursery habitat for many species of fish. Over the years, this large island has slowly

eroded, due to wave action, and is now comprised of a series of smaller islands.

In 1998, a small number of cormorants (a federal migratory bird) were observed nesting on the northernmost island of this chain. By 2001, the number of cormorants was estimated to have increased to several hundred.

Trees and other vegetation on this northernmost island have subsequently been destroyed, presumably, as a result of the increasing cormorant population. Cormorants will strip leaves and small branches for nesting material and their acidic feces will kill vegetation and trees around nesting structures.

Sport fish anglers have also expressed concerns that large numbers of cormorants are routinely observed feeding on large schools of fish around these island chains. Cormorant feeding and nesting issues have become a national concern since significant predation on sport fish has been documented on many northern natural lakes.

In 2004, KDFWR staff met with USDA Wildlife Service personnel to discuss the issue of the number of cormorants on these islands and the negative impacts

**See "Cormorant," page 7.**

## Surplus sale

Members of the public gather close around the auctioneer during KDFWR's fall surplus property sale at Headquarters in Frankfort on the last Monday in October. The spring sale is scheduled for the first Monday in May, also in Frankfort.





## Kentucky's largemouth bass stocking initiative

The Fisheries Division is now in its third year of ongoing research evaluating a new methodology for stocking largemouth bass throughout Kentucky's water resources.

This innovative study is considered the first of its kind to utilize long-term trend data of Kentucky's lakes and reservoirs to predict strong versus poor year-class production of largemouth bass.

Once a poor year-class of largemouth bass has been identified, hatchery produced largemouth bass are supplementally stocked in the upcoming weeks in an attempt to mitigate this poor year-class.

Ultimately, the expected goals and benefits of this study will be to increase the quality of largemouth bass populations and improve angler catch rates as a result of poor year-classes being augmented by supplemental stocking. Additionally, this study will direct our limited largemouth bass hatchery resources to only those lakes requiring immediate stocking.

During September and October, advanced fingerling largemouth bass (4.5 to 5.0 inches) were harvested from both Minor Clark and Pfeiffer (Frankfort) Fish Hatcheries.

Minor Clark Fish Hatchery produced a total of 102,100 largemouth bass, while Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery supplied another 18,479 fish for a grand total of 120,579 largemouth bass.

These fish were marked with a fin-clip which will be used to identify these fish in future sampling efforts to monitor overall growth, survival, and contribution to the wild population.

The following lakes received supplemental stockings of largemouth bass in 2007: Laurel River Lake (58,472 fish), Taylorsville Lake (30,502 fish), Bullock Pen Lake (1,363 fish), Reformatory Lake (561 fish), Carr Creek Lake (7,105 fish), Greenbo Lake (925 fish), Herrington Lake (15,000 fish), Guist Creek Lake (4,863 fish), and Williamstown Lake (1,788 fish).



Lourdes Oster, wife of Fisheries assistant director Ryan Oster, holds the bass she caught this fall while fishing Taylorsville Lake.

Most largemouth bass in Kentucky reach the statewide minimum size limit (12 inches) by age 3. Largemouth bass stocked in 2007 should become noticeable to anglers by the 2009 fishing season as sub-legal fish, however should be of legal size by the 2010 fishing season.

Largemouth bass stocked during the first year of this study (2005) should be of legal size by the upcoming 2008 fishing season.

For more information on the Largemouth Bass Stocking Initiative, please feel free to contact Chris Hickey (Black Bass Research) at (502) 564-3400 ext. 361.

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## KDFWR welcomes 3 new employees

Engineering Division welcomes Andrew McLeod as their newest employee. Andrew is a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky and will be working as a Graduate Engineering Assistant doing design work for Department projects.

Administrative Services Division welcomes Shaun Laine in an Accountant 2 position. He will be working in the Accounting Branch. Shaun will be responsible for processing invoice and utility payments. Shaun brings with him a drive to work for KDFWR and

extensive accounting and management experience in the private sector with his 19 years of work, focusing on multiple accountant tasks.

Law Enforcement Division welcomes Marcelle Bryant. Marcelle will be working in our boating section. Prior to joining us Marcelle owned and operated an Upholstery business in Frankfort. She brings with her 13 years experience in Business Management and is currently seeking a degree in Business Administration.

**"FILO," continued**

experience and interests in aquatic ecology will be an asset to the Department and the FILO program.

The KDFWR in-lieu fee mitigation program was established thru two interagency agreements and became operational in the fall of 2003. Funding is deposited into a Trust in the State Treasury managed by KDFWR authorized by KRS 150.255.

The funds must be used to mitigate impacts to streams and wetlands regulated under the 404 Permit Program of Clean Water Act administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the 404 Program, a permit applicant must mitigate losses to streams and wetlands.

The applicant can mitigate the loss on their own, pay to a private mitigation bank if one exists, or they can voluntarily pay a fee to an approved entity in-lieu of doing the mitigation. The in-lieu fee recipient pools the funding that is generated and uses it to mitigate stream and wetland losses. In addition to Kentucky, in-lieu fee programs or similar mitigation arrangements exist in several other states.

In-lieu fee mitigation projects are developed and selected based on the ability to mitigate stream or wetland loss within the same watershed or river basin where losses have occurred. The leading sources of impairment to Kentucky waterways are related to physical changes and impacts that increase sedimentation and alter aquatic habitat. The in-lieu fee program addresses these sources of impairment by restoring natural stream form on private and public lands throughout the state.

The average length of a KDFWR in-lieu fee stream mitigation project is 6,757 ln.ft. The majority of in-lieu fee mitigation funds managed by KDFWR are provided by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to comply with 404 permit requirements for highway construction.

## Law Enforcement canines making strong cases this deer season

The 2007 deer season has presented a number of opportunities for Law Enforcement canines to perform and they've stepped right up to the plate.

What started out as two citations ended up in four citations, four seized firearms, two coolers containing meat of four deer, three sets of antlers, and serial numbers from two ATVs for possible seizure, thanks to 4th District Conservation Officer Brian Gibson and his dog, Ginger, with assistance from officers Robert Olds and Lucas Hurt.

When the officers pulled into a deer camp off Highway 90, everyone scattered. They quickly found a person skinning and cutting up an unchecked buck and the remains of an unchecked doe.

They had two coolers full of deer meat that matched the deer they had at camp. A juvenile who had checked in a buck had its skull cap. Another person led Gibson and Ginger to the carcass and claimed there were no more carcasses anywhere.

After sending him back to camp, Gibson commanded Ginger to search the area. She soon found two more bucks hidden under branches and debris, cut up, with skull caps removed.

Gibson returned to the camp informed the hunters as to what Ginger had found. When he offered to let Ginger search further, they offered up two more coolers of cut up meat and two sets of antlers, and carcasses.

Officer Jerrod Alley encountered several persons last week while working in Pulaski County with officers Travis Neal and Jason Estes who were in possession of a turkey tail fan. When questioned about the fan, they said it had been taken legally during the fall shotgun season.

Suspicious, Alley put his dog, "Rex", to work checking the area surrounding the camp. Rex quickly located a freshly killed

turkey carcass that had been shot with a rifle. The men confessed to the poaching of the turkey and were charged with hunting without licenses, no turkey permits, illegally taking of a turkey, failure to tag or check their turkey and using an improper firearm to take a turkey.

In another incident, Sgt. Steve Curry and Officer Joe Tomblin were working spotlighting in Lawrence County late Thursday night before Saturday's season firearms opener when a vehicle drove by and shined the field the officers were watching.

Curry and Tomblin pursued the vehicle and saw something thrown from the window of the spotlighters' vehicle before making the stop. The spotlighters said they had tossed out a flashlight. Not believing their story, Sgt. Curry took his dog "Tug" and searched a considerable distance of ditch line, finally locating a high powered rifle belonging to the suspects. The two were arrested and charged.

On Sunday, Curry went to assist Officer Jim Marshall in Johnson County on a trespassing complaint. As they discussed the situation, the trespasser came out of the woods, but without a firearm. He told them he was just out scouting and was not hunting. Curry put Tug to work again and, the rifle was located on the hillside hidden under a pile of leaves. His story then changed and he was charged with hunting without permission, trespassing, and interfering with a conservation officer in the conduct of his duty.

On Monday in Hart County, Sgt. Joe Mills located an unattended ATV parked and decided to use his dog "Angus" to try and locate the hunter for a compliance check.

Tracking from the ATV, Angus located the hunter about a quarter-mile away dressed in full camouflage deer hunting. The hunter told Joe he had been in the

**See "Canines," page 7.**



## Hairless raccoon causes a stir



Statewide black bear and turkey wildlife biologist Steve Dobey examined a hairless raccoon that was trapped in a residential backyard near Somerset last week. The University of Kentucky Diagnostic Laboratory confirmed through necroscopy and histopathologic exams that the animal is indeed a raccoon and suspects at this point that the hair loss was a congenital condition from birth. The hair follicles were normal other than not containing hair. It did not have any contagious diseases and was not a danger to other raccoons or other animals. The internal organs were normal and do not appear to have been affected. However they plan to proceed with toxicological testing to determine the presence of toxic substance. The final report will not be available until after the Thanksgiving holiday.



### "Canines," continued

woods for about five to six hours. He was charged with failure to wear hunter orange while hunting. That's great tracking by the

dog on such an aged track.

Several other uses, mainly tracking for compliance checks were reported by other K9 handlers, but didn't result in discovery of violations.

### "Cormorants," continued

they were having on trees and vegetation on these islands, as well as address concerns of sport fish anglers about the number of potential sport fish being consumed by cormorants.

An agreement was made to allow the cormorants to continue nesting on the northernmost island and deter future expansion of nesting activities on the remaining southern islands. In addition, an agreement was also made whereby Wildlife Service personnel would make routine population observations of cormorants to monitor any increases in abundance.

During 2005, the highest density of cormorants observed was approximately 800 birds. In addition to making population counts, a total of 60 birds were also taken during 2005 to conduct a food habit assessment. A total of 13 species of fish were identified in the diet of these birds, of which 48 percent by number were gizzard shad.

Approximately 9 percent of fish observed in the guts of these birds were sport fish. The other 43 percent were comprised of minnows, suckers, and other non-game fishes. These data indicate that cormorants are probably not significantly impacting sport fish populations around these chain of islands since the primary diet observed in gut contents appears to be non-sport fish species (primarily gizzard shad).

In October of 2007, Wildlife Service personnel conducted an on-site assessment of the population of cormorants around the islands. They reported seeing approximately 2,000 cormorants throughout the area adjacent to and including the five northernmost islands. They also observed evidence of nightly roosting activities on each of these islands.

Wildlife Service personnel sacrificed a small number of birds and applied harassment techniques on others. They will continue to monitor the population of cormorants around this chain of islands on Kentucky Lake.